

November 7, 2002

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chair, and Members  
Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Susan Cole, Chair, and Members,  
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

**2001-2002 LIFE Scholarship Program**

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship was established by the General Assembly during the 1998 legislative session and was signed into law on June 19, 1998. The LIFE Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship designed to increase access to higher education, improve the employability of South Carolina students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, improve SAT scores, and encourage students to graduate from college on time.

During the 2000 legislative session, the General Assembly approved an increase in the award amount of the LIFE Scholarship Program. Students attending a four-year public or independent institution received up to \$3,000, while students attending a two-year public or technical institution received up to the cost-of-tuition and fees for thirty credit hours or its equivalent. In addition, students attending the two-year private institution received up to the cost-of-tuition at the two-year regional campuses.

In order to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship for the 2001-2002 academic year, students were required to earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and earn a minimum score of 1050 on the SAT (22 ACT). The average SAT score for first-time entering freshmen in 2001 was 1139 (ACT scores were converted to SAT).

To earn or renew scholarship eligibility, the student is required to 1) meet all general eligibility criteria; 2) earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year (fall, spring, summer); and 3) earn an average of 30 credit hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours if a rising sophomore, 60 credit hours if a rising junior, or 90 credit hours if a rising senior.

As of August 15, 2002, the Commission on Higher Education awarded 20,340 students, totaling \$54.4 million for the 2001-2002 academic year. This is an increase of 15% from 2000-01. The following reports provide additional information regarding the 2001-2002 LIFE Scholarship recipients including: number of students awarded and the amount disbursed by institution; recipients by classification; Fall 2001 retention; recipients by ethnicity; first-time entering freshman by county of origin; and recipients by county of origin.

Due to the new requirements and the increase of the LIFE Scholarship award amount approved by the General Assembly in 2002, the Commission on Higher Education expects an increase in the number of LIFE Scholarship recipients and the total disbursement for the 2002-03 academic year. In order for students to qualify for the 2002-03 academic year, students must meet two of the following three criteria:

- 1) Earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- 2) Score an 1100 SAT or 24 ACT
- 3) Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class

Students attending a four-year institution will receive up to \$5,000 including a \$300 book allowance. Students attending a two-year public or technical institution will receive up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance. In addition, students attending the two-year private institution will receive up to the cost-of-tuition at the two-year regional campuses plus a \$300 book allowance.

The General Assembly has allocated \$40 million from the SC Education Lottery for the 2002-03 academic year. The remainder will be paid for with state appropriated funds.

<b>2001-2002 Number of LIFE Recipients and Amount Disbursed by Institution as of August 15, 2002</b>		
<b>Institution:</b>	<b># of Recipients</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed</b>
<b>Four-year Public Senior Institutions:</b>		
The Citadel	220	\$639,000.00
Clemson University	3,496	\$10,075,443.22
Coastal Carolina University	416	\$1,185,900.00
College of Charleston	1,768	\$5,075,395.47
Francis Marion University	441	\$1,262,530.81
Lander University	366	\$1,043,766.60
South Carolina State University	259	\$741,858.00
University of South Carolina - Columbia	4,042	\$11,688,688.75
University of South Carolina - Aiken	445	\$1,262,029.40
University of South Carolina - Spartanburg	455	\$1,249,407.50
Winthrop University	1,082	\$3,125,175.00
Medical University of South Carolina	50	\$150,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,040</b>	<b>\$37,499,194.75</b>
<b>Two-year Regional Campuses:</b>		
University of South Carolina - Beaufort	56	\$119,656.25
University of South Carolina - Lancaster	191	\$410,328.00
University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie	66	\$144,375.00
University of South Carolina - Sumter	152	\$320,078.08
University of South Carolina - Union	41	\$87,491.29
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>\$1,081,928.62</b>
<b>Technical Colleges:</b>		
Aiken Technical College	50	\$80,990.00
Central Carolina Technical College	34	\$49,510.00
Denmark Technical College	11	\$16,150.00
Florence-Darlington Technical College	144	\$230,786.00
Greenville Technical College	433	\$664,975.00
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	204	\$310,848.00
Midlands Technical College	352	\$532,011.00
Northeastern Technical College	66	\$98,600.00
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	131	\$214,160.00
Piedmont Technical College	154	\$249,750.00
Spartanburg Technical College	229	\$354,750.00
Technical College of the Low Country	15	\$19,550.00
Tri-County Technical College	357	\$526,518.08
Trident Technical College	352	\$487,794.00
Williamsburg Technical College	8	\$12,750.00
York Technical College	162	\$258,232.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>\$4,107,374.08</b>
<b>Four-year Private Senior Institutions:</b>		
Allen University	11	\$25,500.00
Anderson College	279	\$804,000.00
Benedict College	127	\$376,500.00
Bob Jones University	330	\$962,647.20
Charleston Southern University	323	\$928,500.00
Claffin College	181	\$508,825.00
Coker College	106	\$306,000.00
Columbia College	314	\$906,000.00
Columbia International College	77	\$217,500.00
Converse College	213	\$618,000.00
Ersine College	210	\$617,220.00
Furman University	348	\$1,017,844.00
Johnson & Wales University	61	\$147,610.00
Limestone College	52	\$147,000.00
Morris College	41	\$117,000.00
Newberry College	157	\$457,500.00
North Greenville College	323	\$922,500.00
Presbyterian College	308	\$912,000.00
Southern Wesleyan University	80	\$225,375.00
Voorhees College	15	\$45,000.00
Wofford College	350	\$1,033,743.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>\$11,296,264.20</b>
<b>Two-year Private College:</b>		
Spartanburg Methodist College	186	\$397,254.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>\$397,254.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20,340</b>	<b>\$54,382,015.65</b>

**Fall 2001 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Classification**  
(as of August 28, 2002)

Classification	Fall 2001	
	# of students	Percentage
<b>Freshmen</b>	7,748	40%
<b>Sophomores</b>	4,800	25%
<b>Juniors</b>	3,550	18%
<b>Seniors</b>	3,211	16%
<b>Unknown</b>	148	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19457</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Fall 2001 LIFE Scholarship Retention**  
(as of September 17, 2002)

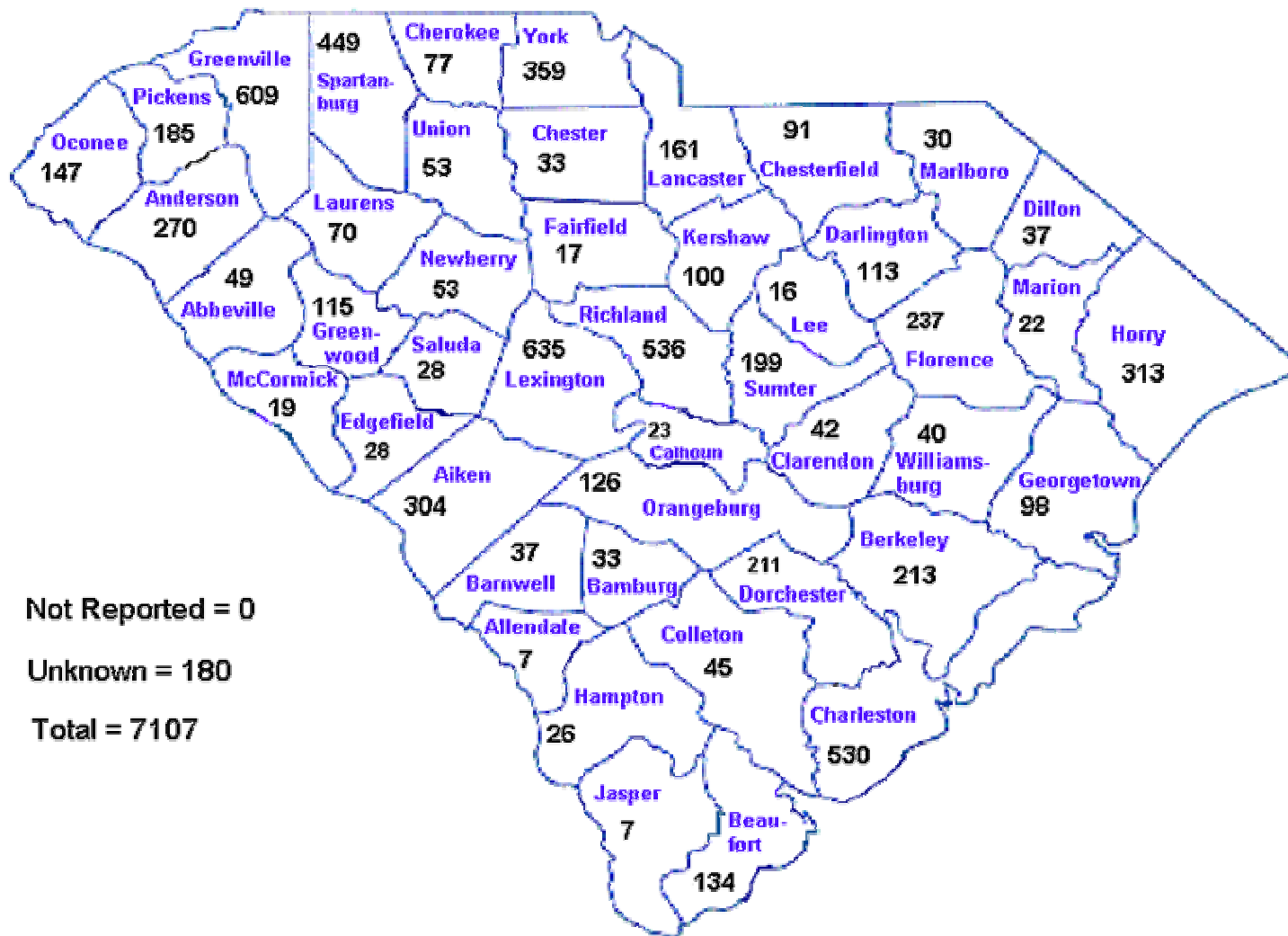
Students receiving the scholarship in Fall 2000 retained the scholarship in Fall 2001 at a rate of 67%. First-time entering freshman in Fall 2000 retained the scholarship in Fall 2001 at a rate of 49% as compared to sophomores, 83% and juniors, 85%. Data shows that the retention numbers have steadily increased each year. Compared to last year, the overall retention rate has increased 5.9%.

Institution	Retained at Same Institution			
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Total
<b>Senior Public</b>	48.8%	76.7%	82.3%	65.9%
<b>Two-Year Regional of USC</b>	35.5%	0	0	35.5%
<b>Technical</b>	27.2%	0	0	27.2%
<b>Senior Private</b>	51.6%	76.6%	87.5%	69.1%
<b>Two-Year Private</b>	37.5%	0	0	29.3%
<b>Sub Total</b>	45.0%	76.7%	83.5%	57.4%
Including students who transferred from originating institution to another institution in the State and retained LIFE. The Grand Total is:	<b>49.0%</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>85.0%</b>	<b>67.0%</b>

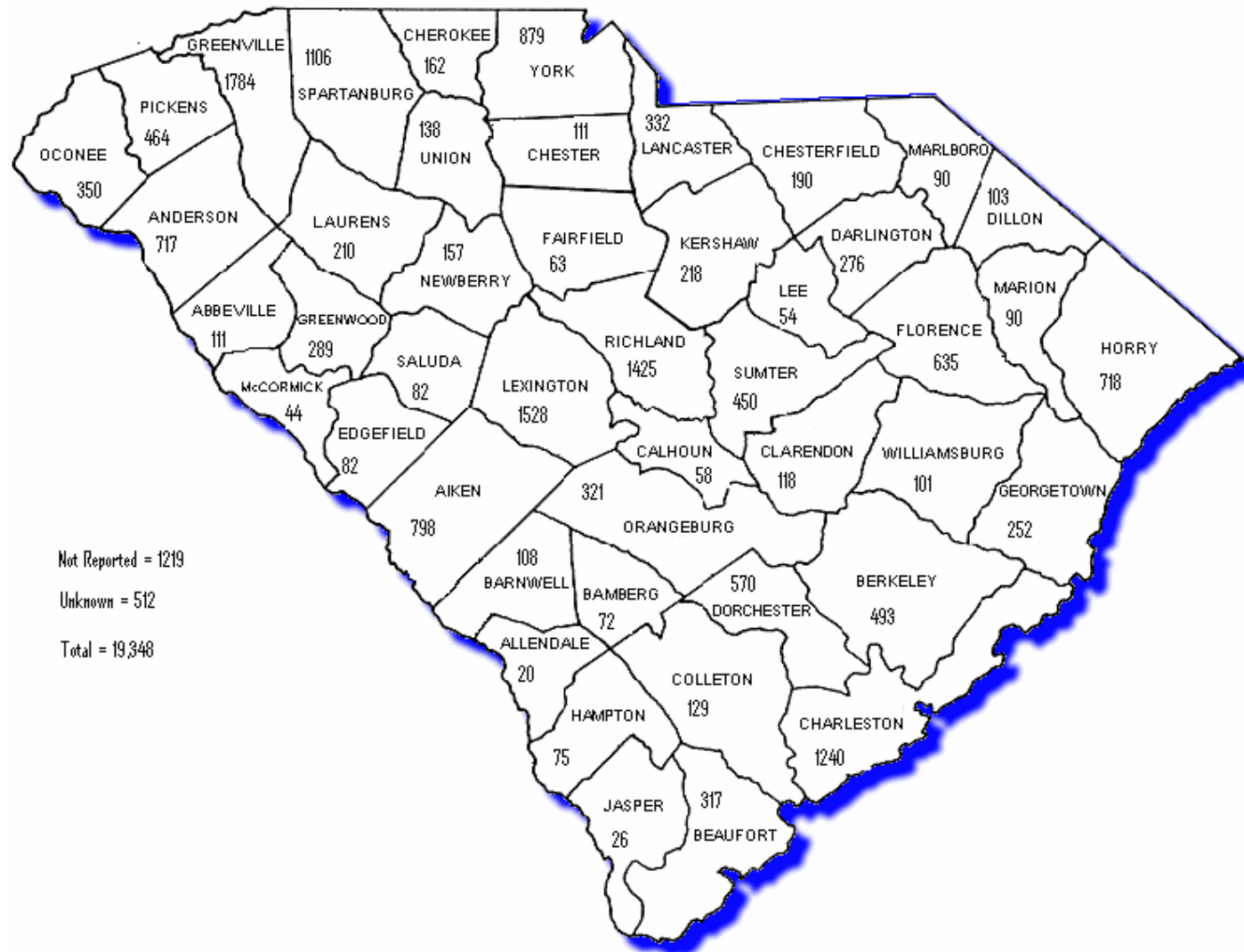
**Fall 2001 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity**  
(as of April 2, 2002)

Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
<b>Black/African-American</b>	2,151	11.12%
<b>American Indian/Alaskan National</b>	37	.19%
<b>Asian/Pacific Island</b>	352	1.82%
<b>Hispanic</b>	166	.86%
<b>White/Non-Hispanic</b>	15,046	77.76%
<b>Unknown</b>	1,596	8.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,348</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Fall 2001 First-time Entering Freshman  
LIFE Recipients by County of Origin**  
as of April 2, 2002



**Fall 2001 Total Reported LIFE Recipients  
by County of Origin  
as of April 2, 2002**



Not Reported = 1219

Unknown = 512

Total = 19,348